

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An apparatus for forming a flower pot cover from a sheet of material, the flower pot cover having an indented ring portion for retaining the flower pot cover on a flower pot, the apparatus comprising:

a female die having an upper end, a lower end, and an opening intersecting the upper end and extending a distance toward the lower end forming an inner female die surface, the female die having a plurality of fingers movable radially into the opening; and
a male die having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer male die surface extending a distance generally between the lower end and the upper end of the male die, the male die shaped such that at least a portion of the male die is receivable in the opening of the female die, the male die and the female die movable relative to one another between a discharge position wherein the male die is removed from the opening of the female die such that the sheet of material is positionable between the male die and the female die and a forming position wherein at least a portion of the male die is

disposed in the opening of the female die so as to form the flower pot cover from the sheet of material positioned between the male die and the female die, the male die having a recess formed between the lower end and the upper end of the female die and adapted to receive the fingers of the female die to form the indented ring portion of the flower pot when the sheet of material is pressed between the female die and the male die.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the female die further comprises:

- a base section;

- a middle section connected to and extending upwardly from the base section;

- a sliding section slidably positioned within the middle section and biasingly supported relative to the base section; and

- a plurality of actuator assemblies, each actuator assembly connected to the sliding section and to a corresponding finger such that the fingers are caused to move radially inwardly in response to downward movement of the sliding section.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the actuator assemblies each comprise:

a cam rigidly attached to the sliding section;

a pivot arm pivotally attached to the middle section and having one end engageable with the cam and one end pivotally connected to one of the fingers such that the cam engages the pivot arm and pivots the pivot arm to cause the fingers to move radially inwardly in response to downward movement of the sliding section.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the fingers has an arcuate nub that substantially conforms to the contour of the recess of the male die.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the fingers are uniformly spaced around a circumference of the female die when the male die presses the sheet of material against the female die.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the arcuate nub of the fingers substantially circumscribe a circle when the nubs are positioned in the recess of the male die.

7-8. (Canceled)